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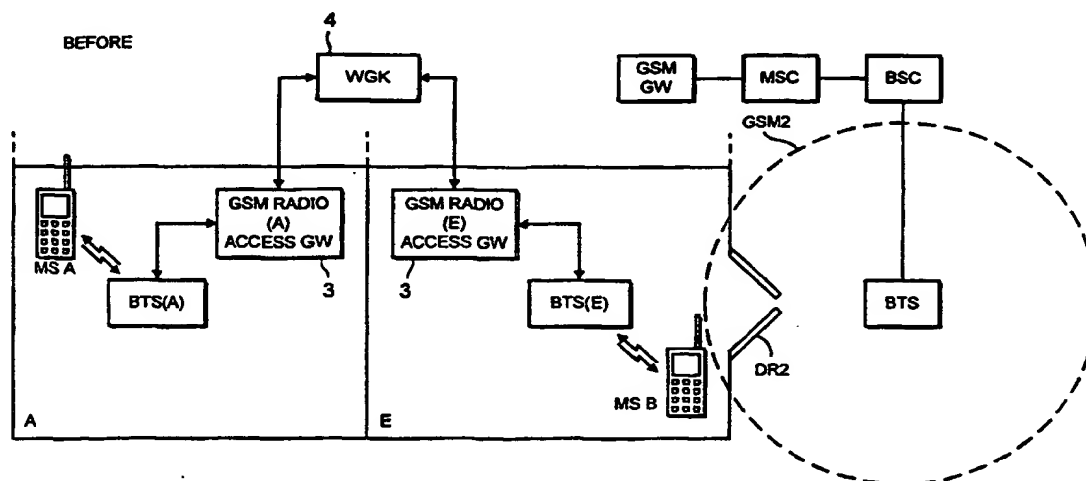
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(54) Title: HANDOVER IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

A method of handing off a mobile station (MS B) from an internal cellular communications network to an external cellular communications network having a network controller, the method comprising: allocating at least one cell of the internal cellular network as a border cell (E); detecting the movement of said mobile station (MS B) into said border cell (E); generating an advance hand-off request in accordance with a prediction algorithm which uses a set of predetermined parameters associated with said mobile station (MS B) and determines when a hand-off is likely to be required; and responsive to said advance hand-off request setting up a communication channel in the external cellular communications network for use by said mobile station (MS B) when an actual hand-off request is made, wherein said external network and said internal network is a packet switched network.